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We concerned by German efforts to move site of election Federal President particularly after public announcement that election would be held in Berlin. To lesser degree we also concerned move to deny Berlin representatives to Federal Assembly right to vote for Federal President.

While we have taken position decision these questions should be left to Germans, both initiatives tend to suggest loosening of FEDERAL ties to Berlin. Particularly in light present situation these actions could have seriously weakening effect on Berlin morale. Will be hard to provide satisfying explanation why site of election moved, especially since last presidential election held there. On voting rights for Berlin representatives, since only 12 out of 22 Berlin votes would be sure SPD votes as against 7 CDU, with remaining 3 likely to vote Adenauer, do not see how outcome of election could be affected, particularly as Adenauer majority likely to be heavy anyway.

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Acting
Secy

Mr. The Acting Secretary

EUR:GER:AOV:germanial 6/1/59

Telegraphic transmission and
classification approved by:

SECRET

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